SECRET

22 October [illegible]

TO : [illegible]

FROM : [illegible]

SUBJECT: Gen. Andras ZAKO and the Kopjas Organization.

1. We have a [illegible] information in our files on activities of the Hungarian emigres, and are able to provide some background information on General ZAKO and the Kopjas organization mentioned in the [illegible] pouch, [illegible] 181). The group, like many of the Hungarian emigre groups, has been characterized by a considerable lack of security, penetration by intelligence services (in this case, particularly the FIS), and a distinct [illegible] political flavor.

2. The Kopjas group was first organized as a military unit by the Hungarian General Staff in the autumn of 1944, trained in espionage and sabotage activities, and told by its officers to continue resistance against the Communists and Soviets after the armistice. It appears that most of the leading members were eventually forced to flee Hungary. CIC reports in late 1947 indicated that the activities of the group were centered around DP Camp Zellerberg, in the British Zone of Austria. The leader of the group was at that time said to be Gen. Andras ZAKO. ZAKO claims that his group was in touch with 35,000 Hungarians throughout Europe, and the CIC estimated that he was actively in touch with no more than [illegible] former Hungarian Army Intelligence officers.

3. There is ample evidence that many leading members of the group were active in attempting to solicit the support of various Allied intelligence services.

a. It was first reported that one [illegible], who was representing the Kopjas in the US Zone of Austria, was actively in touch with Hungarians who were working for the [illegible], and that he was at the same time providing information to the CIC.

b. In May 194[illegible], we learned from Paris sources that General ZAKO had sent his agent [illegible] to Paris as the "diplomatic" representative of his group, in an attempt to secure US support for the organization. [illegible] had previously travelled to the US in March 1948 to try to contact someone in the "Groupe [illegible]" in this regard. [illegible] is also known to have been entangled in long negotiations with representatives of the FIS during the Spring of 1948.

c. ZAKO himself is known to have moved to the French Zone of Austria and to have lived there under the probable sponsorship of the FIS.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCESMETHODSEXEMPTION3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

TO : [illegible]
FROM : [illegible]
SUBJECT: Gen. Andras ZAKO and the Kopjas Organization.

2. In March 1948, ZAKO appeared at the US Consulate in Munich in the company of Gen. [illegible] and was interviewed by members of our station. He admitted his connection with the FIS, but stated he would prefer to work for us. He submitted extensive criticisms of the manner in which US intelligence activities regarding Hungary were being carried on, and also gave an outline of the sort of work which he would like to carry on for us. He furnished with this outline a detailed series of maps and tables of organization for proposed intelligence network into Hungary.

3. As recently as August 1948, ZAKO was in contact with source Bogyay in Paris, and gave information to her which mainly consisted of Hungarian [illegible].

4. In a talk with Murray in July 194[illegible], Geza SZILY explained that the Kopjas group consisted of a large number of [illegible], etc., and that they were "the cream of Hungary." But he admitted that they probably numbered about 1,000 ex-Hungarian army officers, and that they undoubtedly did still maintain underground roads out of Hungary. SZILY said that he, without his knowledge at the time, was smuggled out of Hungary by members of the Kopjas.

5. We have had these indications that ZAKO has been actively in contact with Gen. Ferenc FARKAS, who is one of the less savory [illegible] personalities among the Hungarian emigres, and who has been the leading [illegible] in the game of "playing cabinet" in the [illegible]. He has set up a complete government-in-exile on his own, and reportedly had forced his supporters to swear an oath of allegiance to him. Undoubtedly, the more General ZAKO could be persuaded to avoid FARKAS, the better use we would be able to make of him.

6. As can be seen from the above, the activities of the Kopjas organization have not been characterized by complete discretion. The security of all of the leading Hungarians has been notably bad, and there seems to be no exception in the case of ZAKO and the Kopjas. ZAKO has, however, evidently been considered more intelligent and discreet than many of the others, and [illegible] has considered using him for gathering positive intelligence from Hungary.